

Applicant: Juha Maijala et al.
Application No.: 10/507,436
Response to Office action mailed Oct. 9, 2007
Response filed January 4, 2008

Remarks

Claims 20–47 remain pending in the application. Claims 44–47 are withdrawn. In the Office action dated Oct. 9, 2007, claims 20–43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0982120A1 (Bando).

Claim 20 has been amended to claim coating with *a homogeneous dry coating powder*, and finishing with the coating *so that a more homogenous coated surface is achieved*.

Claim 31 has also been amended to claim coating with *a homogeneous dry coating powder* and further amended *to form a first homogeneous coated surface of the web*. An indefinite reference to a “strong” electric field has been removed.

In Bando the average particle size has to be varied in order to have a desired result, that is to say among the particles there are clearly smaller particles that are placed between the bigger particles. This varied particle size produces an inhomogeneous surface.

[0008] Furthermore, the present inventors have found that it is possible to obtain an image-receiving sheet for an inkjet recording, capable of forming a clearer and more accurate image having higher density, by forming on a substrate a porous and continuous resin layer composed of particles of a powdery coating composition and a first inorganic fine particles dispersed between the particles to form space at least in part between the particles of the powdery coating composition, and further forming a surface layer composed of a second inorganic fine particles on the resin layer.(Bando page 2)

Support for this amendment to the claims is provided by paragraphs [0023] and particularly [0024] of the specification.

The following dictionary definition also provides support for distinguishing over Bando by claiming *a homogeneous dry coating powder*, and *homogeneous coated surface*. Homogenous is defined as:

1. composed of parts or elements that are all of the same kind; not heterogeneous: *a homogeneous population*.

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2. of the same kind or nature; essentially alike....

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/homogeneous> Based on the *Random House Unabridged Dictionary*, © Random House, Inc. 2006.

Another definition from the same site, citing to the American Heritage Dictionary, gives the definition of homogeneous as “2. Uniform in structure or composition throughout.” *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*, Fourth Edition. Retrieved January 03, 2008, from Dictionary.com website.

The claims as amended clearly distinguish over the process of Bando, and Bando clearly teaches away from using a homogenous coating.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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